Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1-8, 14-16, 18, 20, 21, 22-26 and 29-30 have been rejected by the examiner under 35 U,.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuebert et al. (US2002/0165729).

Kuebert discloses the following in paragraph 0036.

> [0036] "In stage 215 of the process, a notification is sent, e.g., to the recipient, to indicate that mail item 100 is en route to the delivery point. The notification may be sent by various ways, for example, via email, via telephone, via fax, or via pager. The notification may be sent to a wide variety of individuals or organizations. For example, the notification may be sent to the recipient and/or an individual authorized by the 'recipient. In addition, tin: notification may be sent to the sender or the mailer."

Kuebert discloses notifying the recipient that the mail is en route to the delivery point.

However, Kuebert does not disclose or anticipate notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail by displaying to the recipient the name, physical address of the recipient and the sender and the unique number; notifying the carrier electronically by the recipient of the manner in which the recipient would like the mail delivered.

Claims 9-13, 18 and 31 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuebert et al. in view of Srinivasan (U.S. Patent Number 6,072,862).

Srinivasan discloses the following in col. 2 line 37-58.

> "To do so, the present invention provides a sender with a single subscriber number to call in order to send or leave a message. Both the sender and a subscriber may select their preferred medium of communication. If the two are different, the present invention provides the necessary conversion. In addition, the present invention can notify a subscriber when a message has been received via the subscriber's preferred "message waiting" notification mechanism. Finally, messages can be stored, routed, or communicated to other subscribers. In such a fashion, the: present invention provides for sending and receiving messages anywhere, at any time, in any form." '

Srinivasan discloses the following col. 3, line 4 to col. 4 line 7.

> "Referring now to FIG. 1, a block diagram of the system of the present invention is shown. As seen therein, in the preferred embodiment, the system comprises a "multimedia" or "universal" mailbox (UM) (10). Mailbox (10) is "multi-media" or "universal" in that it is capable of receiving and storing messages in a wide variety of media formats. 'That is, mailbox (10) is capable of receiving and storing messages from a calling party (12) via any of a number of devices, including facsimile machines (14), e-mail systems (16), voice mail systems (18), pager systems (20) (including alpha-numeric characters), as well as other systems (22) well known in the. art.
>
> Mailbox (10) is also provided in communication with a Service Control Point (SCP) (24) in an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN), which provides a subscriber (26) with the ability to receive the messages described above. In that regard, SCP (24) is itself provided in communication with an input device (28), which preferably comprises a touch-tone telephone, although other types of input devices compatible with SCP (24) may also be used. Via input device (28), subscriber (26) remotely accesses and programs SCP (24) with specific instructions for automatic routing of messages later received by mailbox (10).
>
> More specifically, subscriber (26) may direct SCP (24) to route any message received by mailbox (10) to any number of devices including facsimile machines (30, 32), e-mail systems (34), voice mail systems (36), pager systems (38), as well as other systems (40)

well known in the art to which the subscriber and/or any other entity has access. The specific destination (30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40) for a message from mailbox (10) may depend upon any of a number of parameters programmed by subscriber (26) into SCP (24) via input device (28). Such parameters include, but are not limited to, type of message received in mailbox (10.) (i.e., facsimile, voice mail, e-mail, video mail, page, etc.), type of specific destination (30, 32, 34, 36, 40.) to which the message from mailbox (10) is to be delivered, time and/or date of receipt of the message, and time and/or date for transmission of the message.

For instance, subscriber (26) may program SCP (24) to route all facsimile messages received by mailbox (10.) to either facsimile machine (30.) or (32), where the particular machine selected depends upon the time and/or date of receipt, as previously described. Altemative!y, subscriber (26) may also program SCP (24) to route all facsimile messages received by mailbox (10.) during a first preselected period of time to facsimile machine (30.) at a later preselected time. In such an example, mailbox (10) stores all facsimile messages received during the first preselected period of time for later transmission.

The present invention also provides for conversion of messages from one type of media format to another. As a result, depending upon the preferred or available media, subscriber (26) may also program SCP (24) to route all messages received by mailbox (10) to subscriber (26) via voice mail system (36). In such an example, SCP (24) instructs mailbox (10) to convert non voice mail messages to voice mail before SCP (24) routes such messages to subscriber (26).

It should be noted that the message conversion provided by mailbox (10) may be between any types of media and/or protocol formats. That is, such conversion may be voice mail to voice mail, voice mail or other media "tagging" of other types of messages (e.g., "message waiting" notification), text to voice mail, e-mail to e-mail, text to facsimile transmission, e-mail to facsimile transmission, facsimile transmission overflow, voice mail to text, as well as others. Thus,, as desired, subscriber (26) may receive text copies of voice mail messages, or have electronic mail or facsimile transmissions read via voice mail."

Srinivasan discloses a system for routing messages.

However, Srinivasan does not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by Applicant in Claim 1 as amended and those claims dependent thereon namely, notifying the recipient electronically by the carrier of the availability of the deposited mail by the unique number assigned to the mail by displaying to the recipient the name, physical address of the recipient and the sender and the unique number.

Claims 17, 19, 22, 23, and 27 have been rejected by the Examiner. The foregoing claims are dependent upon Claim 1 on an intervening claim, this for the reasons stated above these claims are patentable.

In view of the above Claims 1-31 are amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions would he please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

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